

Endcliffe Orchestra Committee Meeting
16th May, 7:30 pm.
Draft Minutes

Present: Chris, Alison, Clare, Fiona, Ralph, Matt

1. Apologies

Neil A, Neil B, John G, John W.

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 11th April, 2024

These were considered and **it was agreed** to leave the final compiling of the orchestra members list until another meeting. We do need an accurate list of members, but we also need to comply with the GDP Regulations, just how this is to be done requires further consideration.

3. Declaration of items for AOB – there were no items

4. Agenda items

a. Review of the Ukrainian concert.

This was felt to have been a resounding success. Many people in the audience were inspired by our performance and that of our soloists, so much so that a new member applied to join - a new cellist. The performance was well received by the Ukrainian community present at the concert. We owe particular thanks to Neil Bermel and Alex S whose brainchild this project was and who saw it through all its stages to completion. Grateful thanks go to the Ukrainian National Orchestra for their help in sourcing and supplying the music and members of the Ukrainian community in Sheffield for all their help – especially in baking the wonderful refreshments. We also record our thanks to Paul Patterson for giving us the opportunity to premiere his Canonic Concertino for Harp and Flute in this country. Our concert was made especially successful because of our wonderful soloists Veronika Lemishenko and Caroline Anderson.

In relation to the collection for charity **it was agreed** that in future we need to have a very clear way of collecting and separating the charity collection from other amounts that are collected at the concert. The charity chosen for our summer concert is Charles University Foundation Fund, Prague which is a fund established to assist the wounded and the bereaved families of the shooting that

took place in December 2023 and during which the Head of the Music Department at that University was killed.

The Summer Concert is to be held at St. Luke's, Crosspool on 6th July and refreshments are to be provided by members of the orchestra, with proceeds from the refreshments to go into the Charles University Fund. We further discussed the need to find additional players for the timps and percussion and we asked **John Webber** to liaise with **Neil A.** and with Mick Godber to see what percussion was needed and whether other musicians might be needed for any other orchestral parts.

Since the pianist for the Beethoven concerto is coming for the Sunday rehearsal **at St Luke's on 30th June, we need to ensure that Nick Baines books St Lukes for that date.** We also discussed the payment for the soloist including expenses.

- b. Finances – proposal by Matt to top up the Ukrainian donation.

An amount of £290 was collected at the concert (together with a donation from the refreshment lady) and we discussed what the orchestra could give to match this donation. There was a general discussion of the how we deal with charities, and it was proposed that we should not go into our reserves to make charitable donations. A figure of £310 which comes from the concert takings was agreed as a suitable donation, making a total of £600 in all for the Veronika Lemishenko Foundation.

There was also a proposal to increase subs generally with the purposes of enabling us to hire contemporary music or music still in copyright. The hiring costs of such music is very expensive. The committee agreed that we should raise subs by a small amount (from £12 to £13 per term) to cover ongoing costs and this just might enable us to hire some more expensive music.

- c. Concert Repertoire for 2025

The discussion of this item was limited because of the unavoidable absence of Neil A. So far, it is suggested that the Winter Concert consists of:

Ethel Smythe - Overture, The Wreckers
Elgar- Cello concerto in E minor, possible soloist Gemma Rosefield,

Ensemble 360 (**Neil A to contact Gemma**).
Vaughan Williams - Symphony No 1, A London Symphony

The Summer Concert might include Ferde Grofe: Mississippi Suite and Gershwin Piano Concerto in F, but these items are not final.

We discussed the potential venues for our concerts and considered that St. Mark's was potentially a good venue; we also might consider St John's, Ranmoor and **we agreed to ask Nick Baines** to explore these venues for the two dates for our concerts in 2025, as well as our usual venues of All Saints, Ecclesall and St. Luke's Crosspool.

We will ask **Neil A** to book any additional rehearsals and sectionals and to inform members of these via the website.

As regards publicity for this season's Summer Concert **we agreed to ask Lisa Price** to work on the Programmes for our concerts. **Clare C agreed to provide the music programme notes. Matt also agreed to help for this summer's concert programme.** We are aware that we still have a vacancy for the marketing officer.

- d. Keys for opening (and closing) Millhouses Methodist Church (MMC). We discussed this at some length, and **it was agreed** that either Alex or John W should give up one of their sets of keys (and have one set between them as they need to be able to open the church to get the tims on concert rehearsal days). Then the 'spare set' should be given to **Zoe Chapman** who regularly comes at 7:10 and who can be relied on as **the main key holder**. **Alison T** also has a set of keys and is the **reserve key holder** if the doors are locked and Zoe is not available. Someone would have to go to Alison's house to get the keys.

5. AOB

We discussed the 8th and 15th July – the period after the Summer Concert when we have agreed to play Matt's piano concerto (3rd movement) so that it can be filmed. The first rehearsal of this will be on 8th July at MMC and on **15th July, the rehearsal and recording will be at St Luke's where there is a good piano.**

6. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 6th June at Fiona's.